

Possibly a greater range of nesting data might indicate two peaks of nesting in the year in normal seasons. Dr. W. Macgillivray (1923, p. 164) has shown that the species will take advantage of exceptional favourable conditions for breeding. He found it nesting, with other water birds, in the Darling River country in late January, 1922, following exceptional floods.

In New Zealand Dr. R. A. Falla (1932, p. 140) states that the Black Cormorant breeds twice a year, laying in May and September.

REFERENCES

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FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Brush Bronzewing at Garden Island.—Garden Island is listed as one of the refuges of the Brush Bronzewing (*Phaps elegans*), but as K. Buller failed to observe this declining species during a five-day visit to the island in November, 1948, (*W.A. Nat.*, vol. 2, 1949, p. 48), it may be worth recording a recent occurrence. On February 25, 1955, I found the body of a Brush Bronzewing on the road just below the highest point on the island. It had probably been hit by a car. The bird was not long dead, although part of the head had been destroyed. The rufous nape and bluish under parts were still quite apparent.

—J. A. L. WATSON, Cottesloe.

Golden Whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*) as a Fosterer of Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*).—On November 7, 1954, at Williams I located a young Pallid Cuckoo in a cup nest about 13 ft. from the ground in a Casuarina. The bird scrambled out of the nest, but did not move far and shortly afterwards returned to it. During the ensuing twenty minutes the young cuckoo was fed by: (a) A whistler with apparently striated underparts. (b) A whistler with apparently plain underparts. (c) A cock Golden Whistler in full plumage. (d) A cock Golden Whistler, probably the same as (c). In the two latter occurrences, the bird moved purposefully into the nest and was greeted before arrival by the cuckoo, i.e. the whistler did not appear to be attracted casually.

It seems evident that Golden Whistlers were the true fosterers. This is not one of the fosterers listed in *Birds of W.A.*, Serventy and Whittell, though the bird has been recorded as a fosterer in Tasmania, *vide Birds of Tasmania*, Littler, and may have been recorded elsewhere outside of W.A.

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Williams.